

man and animals transmitted through the urine. He was much interested in obtaining further information on the subject. I have observed similar habit in a number of species of bats as shown by the following observations:

1. Several individuals of a large colony of the Lesser Rat-tailed Bat, *Rhinopoma h. hardwickei* Gray in a rock cave observed in August and September near Jabalpur city started urinating a few minutes after my entry into the haunt. The urination was accompanied by frequent shifting and spreading of wings. There were several outlets and the individuals were not under fear of being captured. The colony was also quite used to human presence and did not disperse. I was at a distance of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  m from the colony. The urination stopped as soon as the intrusion ended.

2. A large colony of the Blackbearded Tomb Bat, *Taphozous m. melanopogon* Temminck was observed in Mandla town (M.P.) in November in second storey of a ruined house. The ceiling was low, hardly 4 m high and I could approach the bats within a distance of about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. Several urinating individuals flew very near to me during my stay for about 45 mins. Similar observations have been made in some other places also.

3. A colony of the Indian False Vampire, *Megaderma l. lyra* Geoffroy inhabiting a ruined temple near Jabalpur city started urinating after about ten minutes of my presence inside the temple.

4. Flying specimens of the Lesser Yellow Bat *Scotophilus temmincki wroughtoni* Thomas have been observed to urinate on the observer. Drops of urine came out of captured specimens when they were roughly handled.

5. One of the flying specimens of the Greater Yellow Bat, *Scotophilus h. heathi* Horsfield when too closely watched at the time of return to its roost early in the morning gave out squirts of urine while flying near the observer.

The above observations show that the habit appears to be of quite common occurrence in bats.

454, SOUTH CIVIL LINES,  
JABALPUR, M.P.,  
September 4, 1971.

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### 3. OCCURRENCE OF FISHING CAT (*FELIS VIVERRINA*) IN ORISSA

A young male of the Fishing Cat (*Felis viverrina*) was caught by some villagers near the village of Balarampur (Keonjhar district, Orissa) on 27-iv-1973 and the animal was received at Nandankanan

Biological Park on 27-iv-1973 through the good offices of Sub-Divisional Officer, Anandpur. However, it died soon after its arrival. The animal weighed 3.6 Kg and measured 83 cm from tip to tip including 23 cm long tail. This appears to be the first record of occurrence of this cat in Orissa.

An adult female Fishing Cat received in this Park on 26-vi-1967 through an animal dealer of Calcutta died on 2-iii-1974 after remaining for 6 years, 8 months and 5 days in captivity. The estimated age at the time of death was about 10 years. After death it weighed 6.8 Kg and measured 102 cm including 26 cm long tail. It was fed on a mixed diet of beef and mutton with a chicken once a month and used to take fish whenever offered. It had the peculiar habit of urinating most of the time into the water trough. It was very shy, and kept inside its shelter throughout the day coming out for feeding late in the evening when all the visitors had left and moving about in the enclosure from late evening to early hours of the morning.

Prater (1971)<sup>1</sup> gives the distribution as forests up to 1525 m in the Himalayas and the swamps at the base of the mountains. Parts of Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, and Sind and unknown in the Peninsula of India except in the creeks and backwaters of the Malabar coast between Mangalore and Cape Comorin.

VETERINARY ASSISTANT SURGEON,  
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April 25, 1974.

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#### 4. AGE OF SEXUAL MATURITY OF TWO SPECIES OF WILD CARNIVORES IN CAPTIVITY

In this note, an attempt is made to present some information on the age of sexual maturity of two species of wild carnivores observed at Nandankanan Biological Park, Orissa.

Tiger *Panthera tigris* (Linn.)

A female tiger cub with an estimated age of about 7 weeks was received in this Park on 2-xi-1967. She came into heat for the first time on 3-ix-1970 and was allowed to remain with a male tiger born

<sup>1</sup> PRATER, S. H. (1971): The Book of Indian Animals, Bombay Natural History Society, Bombay: 74-75.